

REMARKS

This Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 27, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 19-24 were pending. Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 19-24 were rejected. Claims 5 and 13-18 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 19, and 22-24 have been amended, and Claim 20 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 19, and 21-24 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Amended Claims 1-4 and 5-6 are allowable.

Claims 1, 4 and 7 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,592,387 issued to Vernon Komenda et al. ("*Komenda*").

Claims 1-3 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,318,455 issued to Gérard Villiers et al. ("*Villiers*").

Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Komenda* nor *Villiers* teach or suggest all of the elements of Applicants' amended claims. For example, amended Claim 1 recites, in part:

an assembly housing operable to receive a portion of a screw . .
. a threaded portion of the screw extending along a first axis;

a sliding block . . . operable to linearly translate the connector
between a first position and a second position along a second axis
generally perpendicular to the first axis; and

a spring . . . being compressible along the second axis to
provide an axial force to bias the connector along the second axis
towards the first position, whereby coupling the connector to the
computer component causes the connector to move along the second
axis to a connected position intermediate the first position and the
second position. (emphasis added)

Thus, Claim 1 recites that (a) the screw extends along a first axis, (b) the sliding block and connector linearly translate along a second axis generally perpendicular to the first axis, and (c) the spring is compressible along the second axis and provides an axial force to bias the connector along the second axis.

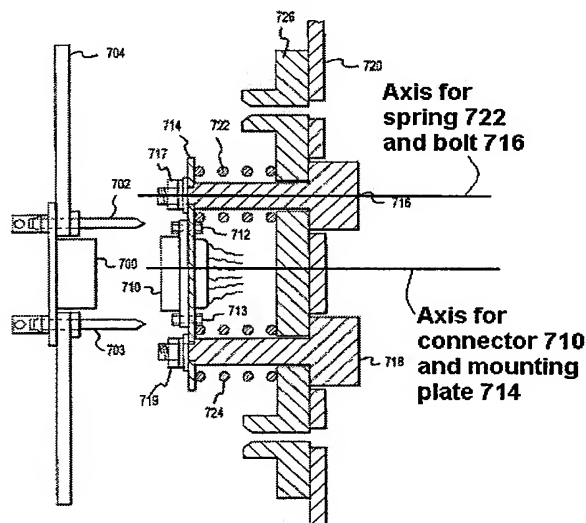
Neither *Komenda* nor *Villiers* teach or suggest such features, as discussed below in greater detail.

First, regarding *Komenda*, the Examiner equates:

- “shoulder bolt 716” of *Komenda* with the “screw” of Claim 1;
- “connector 710” of *Komenda* with the “connector” of Claim 1;
- “mounting plate 714” of *Komenda* with the “sliding block” of Claim 1; and
- “spring 722” of *Komenda* with the “spring” of Claim 1.

Assuming for the sake of argument that such features can be equated (which Applicants do not concede), they do not disclose that (a) the screw extends along a first axis, (b) the sliding block and connector linearly translate along a second axis generally perpendicular to the first axis, and (c) the spring is compressible along the second axis and provides an axial force to bias the connector along the second axis.

As shown in Figure 7 of *Komenda* (shown below), bolt 716 extends along a first axis (the upper axis shown below) and spring 722 is compressible and provides force along that first axis. Mounting plate 714 and connector 710 translate along a second axis (the lower axis shown below). The first and second axes are parallel. Thus, the axis along which mounting plate 714 and connector 710 translate is parallel with, not “generally perpendicular to,” to the axis of bolt 716. Further, the axis along which spring 722 is compressible and provides an axial force is parallel with, not “generally perpendicular to,” the axis of bolt 716.



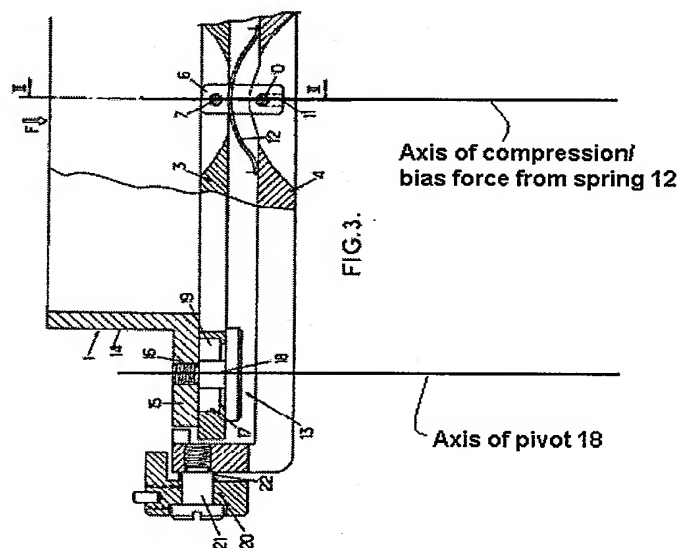
For at least these reasons, *Komenda* cannot teach or suggest the features of amended Claim 1.

Second, regarding Villiers, the Examiner equates:

- “pivot 18” of *Villiers* with the “screw” of Claim 1;
- “connector portion body 1” of *Villiers* with the “connector” of Claim 1;
- “intermediate platform 3” of *Villiers* with the “sliding block” of Claim 1;
and
- “spring blade 12” of *Villiers* with the “spring” of Claim 1.

Assuming for the sake of argument that such features can be equated (which Applicants do not concede), they do not disclose that (a) the screw extends along a first axis, (b) the sliding block and connector linearly translate along a second axis generally perpendicular to the first axis, and (c) the spring is compressible along the second axis and provides an axial force to bias the connector along the second axis.

As shown in Figure 7 of *Villiers* (below), pivot 18 extends along a first axis (the lower axis) and spring blade 12 is compressible and provides force along a second axis (the upper axis). The first and second axes are parallel. Thus, the axis along which spring blade 12 is compressible and provides an axial force is parallel with, not “generally perpendicular to,” to the axis of pivot 18. Further, connector portion body 1 and intermediate platform 3 of *Villiers* do not translate along an axis that is “generally perpendicular to” the axis of pivot 18.



For at least these reasons, *Villiers* cannot teach or suggest the features of amended Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 cannot be anticipated by *Komenda* or *Villiers*. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-7 that depend from Claim 1.

Amended Claims 6, 8-12, 19, and 21-24 are Allowable.

Claims 6, 8-12 and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Komenda*.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 8 and 19 based on the amendments to Claim 1. Thus, for reasons analogous to those discussed above regarding amended Claim 1, *Komenda* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended independent Claims 8 and 19.

For example, regarding amended Claim 8, *Komenda* does not teach or suggest:

. . . the screw extending along a first axis;
. . . the sliding block operable to linearly translate the connector along a second axis generally perpendicular to the first axis . . .
a spring . . . being compressible along the second axis and operably providing an axial force to bias the connector along the second axis towards the first position. (emphasis added)

As another example, regarding amended Claim 19, *Komenda* does not teach or suggest:

. . . the screw extending along a first axis,
. . . a spring and a sliding block aligned along a second axis generally perpendicular with the first axis;
the connector automatically moving along the second axis to a connected position between the first position and the second position, the movement of the connector moving the sliding block along the second axis and causing the spring to compress along the second axis. (emphasis added)

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 8 and 19 are allowable over *Komenda*. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended independent Claims 8 and 19, as well as 9-12 that depend from Claim 8, and Claims 21-24 that depend from Claim 19.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants enclose a Petition for Extension of Time for one month and authorize the Commissioner to charge the amount of \$120.00 to Deposit Account No. 02-0383.

Applicants believe no other fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2689.

Respectfully submitted,

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